

Among the various Labours of literary Men, there have
always been certain Fragments whose Size could not secure
them a general Exemption from the Wreck of Time, which
their intrinsic Merit entitled them to survive; but having been
gathered up by the Chance of some Milliner's or
Sections of Bookellers, they have been rescued into Existence,
and by being aggregated and arranged in a new Op-
eration. Original Pieces have been called in to their Aid, and
formed a new whole, which might with some Advantage be
given to the Character of the Ornament as
well as Value of Libraries.

B R I T A N N I C A

N. XVII.

CONTAINING

- I. Extracts from the BLACK BOOK of WARWICK.**
- II. Memoir on the Story of GUY Earl of WARWICK,**
by Mr. PEGGE, with a Print of his Statue at
Guy-Cliffe in its present state.
- III. Sir THOMAS MORE's Narrative of a Religious**
Frenzy at COVENTRY.

be completed in a single Number.
Into this Collection all Communications consistent with the
Plan will be received with Thanks. And as no Correspondent
will be denied the Privilege of controverting the Opinions of
another, no one will be denied Admittance without a fair and
impartial Reason.

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AMONG the various Labours of Literary Men, there have always been certain Fragments whose Size could not secure them a general Exemption from the Wreck of Time, which their intrinsic Merit entitled them to survive; but, having been gathered up by the Curious, or thrown into Miscellaneous Collections by Booksellers, they have been recalled into Existence, and by uniting together have defended themselves from Oblivion. Original Pieces have been called in to their Aid, and formed a Phalanx that might withstand every Attack from the Critic to the Cheesemonger, and contributed to the Ornament as well as Value of Libraries.

With a similar view it is here intended to present the Publick with some valuable Articles of BRITISH TOPOGRAPHY, from printed Books and MSS. One Part of this Collection will consist of Re-publications of scarce and various Tracts; another of such MS. Papers as the Editors are already possessed of, or may receive from their Friends.

It is therefore proposed to publish a Number occasionally, not confined to the same Price or Quantity of Sheets, nor always adorned with Cuts; but paged in such a Manner, that the general Articles, or those belonging to the respective Counties, may form a separate Succession, if there should be enough published, to bind in suitable Classes; and each Tract will generally be completed in a single Number.

Into this Collection all Communications consistent with the Plan will be received with Thanks. And as no Correspondent will be denied the Privilege of controverting the Opinions of another, so none will be denied Admittance without a fair and impartial Reason.



E X T R A C T S

F R O M

THE BLACK BOOK OF WARWICK.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

M R. P E G G E ' S M E M O I R

O N

G U Y E A R L O F W A R W I C K ,

A N D

S I R T H O M A S M O R E ' S N A R R A T I V E
O F A R E L I G I O U S F R E N Z Y A T C O V E N T R Y .

L O N D O N ,

P R I N T E D B Y A N D F O R J . N I C H O L S ,

P R I N T E R T O T H E S O C I E T Y O F A N T I Q U A R I E S ;

A N D S O L D B Y A L L T H E B O O K S E L L E R S I N G R E A T B R I T A I N A N D I R E L A N D .

M D C C L X X X I I I .

[Price One Shilling and Six Pence.]

E X T R A

THE BLACK BOOK OF WARWICK.

M R P E G E S M E M O I R

W A R W I C K



OF A RELIGIOUS PRINCE AT CONVENTRY.

PRINTED BY AND FOR J. NICHOLS,
PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES,
AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

[Price One Shilling and Six Pence.]

[v]

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.



THE Editor having been favoured by an intelligent friend with some extracts out of a book called the *Black Book*, in the possession of the corporation of WARWICK, relating to the history of the period in which it was compiled (the reign of Elizabeth and James I.) flattered himself they might not be unacceptable to the curious of the present day who find a pleasure in searching into ancient manners.

Every trait in the picture of the *golden age* of ELIZABETH, that "*reigne of faerie*," is a new illustration of the manners of a period so conspicuous in England's annals.

The new specimen of ingenious devices here exhibited to the admirer of old English manners was contrived by one of her Majesty's especial favourites, who, before he treated *her* with the "*princelie pleasures of Kenilworth*," fed his own vanity by taking upon himself the French order of St. Michael, which had been instituted 1469 by Lewis XI. king of France, as a last but unsuccessful effort to unite a kingdom divided against itself by his factious nobles. For some time after its institution it was conferred but upon persons of the first rank and exemplary by their conduct and pre-eminent in virtue, and further recommended by some signal action which might deserve so great a reward. And as these qualifications were seldom to be found in the same person, the stalls had never been filled for four successive reigns; the number of knights amounting only to 36. But towards the end of the reign of king Henry II. this order became venal, and governments, estates, and wives are said to have

been prostituted to obtain it. Under Francis II. and Charles IX. it grew still cheaper, and the number of knights increased so largely, that the lords, in derision, demanded it for their footmen. Queen Elizabeth is reported to have lamented the disregard paid to it when she learned it was thus disposed of to all sorts of people without any distinction. In the beginning of the year 1566 Monsieur Rambouillet was dispatched into England by Charles IX. with this order to be conferred on two English noblemen most agreeable to her Majesty. The Queen made choice of the duke of Norfolk and the earl of Leicester; the one distinguished by his high birth, and the other by her favour. On the 24th of January they were invested in the royal chapel at Whitehall with great solemnity. No Englishmen had ever been admitted before into this order, except king Henry VIII. king Edward VI. and Charles Brandon duke of Suffolk, which made the Queen look upon it as a considerable honour*.

Another extract relates to the funeral of the polite and pleasing, but temporising and extravagant Marquis of Northampton, brother to the most fortunate of Henry the Eighth's Queens, who escaped the tyrant's caprice, and survived him.

The last of these extracts is an order of council to the corporation of Warwick, to assist John Speed in his improvement on Saxton's Maps of Great Britain.

To these is subjoined a Memoir of the learned Antiquary, the Rev. Mr. Pegge, on the Story of Guy Earl of Warwick, which he has controverted and overthrown on the clearest evidence. The print prefixed represents the colossal statue of this hero in its present mutilated state,—how changed from what Sir William

* Mezerai, Hist. de France, III. p. 204. Camden's Hist. of Elizabeth, I. p. 82. Stowe's Chronicle, p. 659. Antis' Register of the Garter, p. 89. Ashmole's Institution of the Order of the Garter, p. 369. Life of Robert Dudley earl of Leicester, 1727, p. 36—38, and Appendix, N° III.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

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Dugdale exhibited it*: the grotto perverted into a carpenter's workshop.

This number was on the point of being closed when the Editor recollected a letter with which he had many years since been favoured by Dr. DUCAREL, inclosing a transcript, from a MS. in the Lambeth library, of a Latin letter from Sir Thomas More, which seems to have been designedly kept back from all the editions of his works, and preserved only in a partial translation blended with the original in a motley manner, by Mr. Day, who inserted it in his Preface to his Descant on David's Psalms. It may at least serve to shew that some dawnings of good sense broke in upon his general attachment to the superstitions in which he had been educated, and to which he fell a martyr.

* Warwickshire, p. 183, 184. See also Hearne's Preface to his edition of Rofs. of Warwick, p. xxix.

CON-

C O N T E N T S.



I. Extracts from a Book in the Possession of the Corporation of Warwick, called the Black Book*, viz.		
1.	Celebration of the Order of St. Michael at Warwick,	Page 1
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* The other Part of this Book consists principally of Corporation Accompts.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

BLACK BOOK of WARWICK.



CELEBRATION OF THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL, BY [ROBERT DUDLEY] EARL OF LEICESTER, AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN WARWICK, ANNO 1571.

"THAT night being Michaelmas even, it was signified that the said earle of Leicester wold goo to the churche and there kepe the order of Fraunce (viz. of St. Michael*) whereof he is companion;

* Louis XI. king of France, in order to attach to his interest all the princes and great men of the kingdom, instituted the order of St. Michael at Amboise, August 1, 1469. The assembly was very numerous. The king declared himself grand master of the order, and gave the first collar to his brother, and the second to John II. duke of Bourbon and Auvergne, and fourteen others, reserving to himself the power of making up the number 36 knights, in the first chapter. The place of this order was the church of Mont St. Michael, which was chosen for two reasons, because it had never been in the hands of the enemies of the crown of France, and because Charles VII. when he entered Orleans with Joan of Arc, being on the bridge, saw, or fancied he saw, St. Michael fighting for him. The habit of the order was a mantle of white damask reaching to the ground, richly trimmed and embroidered with shells of gold, furred with ermine, with hoods of crimson velvet;

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companyon; and for that cause his pleasure was signified to have the bailief and burgeffes to wayt upon him both to and fro the churche, whither his lordship mynded to goo by nyne of the clock or sone after. On Michaelmas-day the bailif and burgeffes met in the hall, according to their charter, to chuse a bailif for the ensuing year, when Robert Philips was appointed. By which tyme word was brought that my lord of Leicester was redy to come to churche and staid for the bailief and his company. Whereupon making the more hast, the said bailief and burgeffes and assistants came to the priory, where they were placed and apointed to wait upon the said lord in this manner. First, the commoners in gownes should goo foremost, two and two together; then next after the commoners four constables, to go on a rank with little white stiks in their haundes; then next after them should followe the twelve principall burgeiffes, two and two in order, the yongest going foremost; then after the principall burgeiffes followed such of my lord's gentlemen, and gentlemen of the sute as that day wayted upon him; then after the gentlemen cam the serjaunt, bering the mace; then next after the serjaunt followed the bailief alone in a gowne of skarlet; after

the hood of the principal of the order was of deep scarlet. The badge was in the gold collar, in the middle of which was the image of St. Michael on a rock, without enamel or jewels. This collar was to be worn every day, on pain of causing one mass to be celebrated, and giving in alms seven sous six deniers. In time of war, on a journey, and at home, it was sufficient to wear the image of St. Michael fastened to a gold chain. The officers were, a chancellor, who kept the seal of the order, and had the privilege of making proposals, speaking in chapter, enquiring into and reforming the behaviour of the knights, collecting the votes at elections and the proofs of the nobility of the candidates; a treasurer, to keep the relics, jewels, &c. a herald at arms, whose style was *Mount St. Michael*. At the beginning of the copy of the statutes made for the king himself, is a miniature of Louis sitting in chapter and making a speech to the knights, who are standing on each side in the robes and collars of the order, and white mantles reaching to the ground, but without hoods. Some of their caps are blue, others red. This miniature is engraved in Montfaucon's *Monumens de la Monarchie Françoise*, III. pl. LXI. p. 305, 306.

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him came Mr. William Gorge, that day steward to my lord, Mr. Robert Christmas, tresurer to my lord, and Mr. Thomas Dudley *, comptroller to my lord, all with white staves as officers, all in one ranke; then next them folowid Dragon purfvyant at armes, Clarenceaux king at armes, both in coat armoer; and then cam my said lord therle of Leycester by himself, apparelled all in white, his shoes of velvet, his stoks of hose knit silk, his upper stoks of white velvet lyned with cloth of silver, his dowblet of silver, his ierkin white velvet drawen with silver, beautified with gold and precious stone; his girdle and skabard white velvet; his robe white fatten embrowdered with gold a foot broade very curiously; his cap black velvet with a white fether; his color of gold besett with precious stones; and his garter about his legg of faint George's order, a sight worth the beholding. And yet surely all this costly and curious apparell was not more to be praised then the comely gesture of the same earle, whose stature being reasonably (tall) was furnished with all proporcion and lyniaments of his body and parts aunswerable in all things, so as in the eies of this writer he seemed the only goodliest personage male in England, which peradventure might be asserted. But surely to all the beholders it was a sight most comendable. Nowe after the said earle of Leicester followid his companyons, therle of Hertford †, the lord Barkley ‡, the lord Dudley, the lord Shandois §, the lord Deputy or President, and many other knights and gen-

* Perhaps Thomas Dudley of Yanwith, co. Westmoreland, father of John, who held the manor of Stoke Newington, and died 1580 (a), or of his great grandson and namesake (b).

† Edward Seymour, eldest son of the protector Somerset, created earl of Hertford 13 Elizabeth, died 1621. Dugd. Bar. II. 368.

‡ Henry lord Barkley, born 1534, died 1596. Ib. I. 368.

§ Edmund Bruges, second lord Chandos, died 1573. Ib. II. 395.

(a) Hist. of Stoke Newington, p. 10. 21.

(b) Burn's Westmoreland, I. 412.

tllemen, all on foot, from the priory to the churche of saint Maryes, where were prepared by the herralds in the quire placis first for a clothe of estate rich hanged over on the right side of the quire at the entring, where the viker's place is; on the other side towards the vestry, in the third stall towards the vestry, a place for the earle himself to sit in; over which places, that is to say under the clothe of estate, was sett upp the armes of the French king; and over the place where my lord satt was fastenyd my lordes owne armes envyroned with the garter, and without the garter a wrethe of gold, after the French order, in maner of knotts (being skallops shelles). So farre of the quier as have seates was hangid with arras and tapistry, and round about were furmes sett for the nobles, gentlemen and others to sitt upon to heare the sermon. On the stall before my lord lay a rich clothe with a faire and costly cushion. On the comunyon-table was laid another faire cloth of arras. Before the table was laid a Turkye carpett, whereon my lord knelid when he offered, which carpett was spred by two gentlemen, whereof the one was his gentleman usher. The pulpitt being set at the nether end of the earle of Warwick's tombe in the said quier, the table was placed where the alter had bene. At the comyng into the quier my lord made lowe curtesie to the French king's armes being under the cloth of estate, and so was brought by the harraulds to his owne place, where he satt and heard the sermond. After the sermon ended, a minister went to the comunyon table, and standing at the north side thereof, he said the service of the comunyon untill he came to the exhortations of almes and relief of the poore; then the said minister went to the mids of the table, and taking in hand a bason of silver there ready, the children and others of the churche sang a psalme, whiles the herauld Clanrenseaux went to my lord, and making curtesie to him, my lord arose, and followed the herauld till he came before the plaice where
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the French king's armes stood, and there the said earle made a very lowe curtesie; from thens, bothe the heraulds going before, my lord came upp to the comunyon table, where the minister stood with his bason, and offred one piece of gold; and then rising, he went downe again right against the place where he before had satt, and there bothe he and the herauld made another lowe curtesie before his owne armes, and then was brought upp again on the other side of the quier by the said heraulds to the said comunyon-table, and there offered into the bason another piece of gold; which done, the same heraulds brought him again into his owne place, where sitting downe, and kneling, he heard the rest of the prayers untill thend. And so in the same order as he came to the churche, he with all the rest returned again to the pryory, where very solemnly he kept the feast with liberall bountie and great cheare. Himself sitting in a parlor by himself, without any company, kept the state, and was served with many dishes all covered, and upon the knee, with assaye. After dynner the said earle remayning in the house with his said robes on until evening, mynded to goo again to even song, but the weather being fowle and very great rayne, he could not goo furth according to his entent."

THE DEATH AND BURIALL OF THE MARQUES NORTHAMPTON AT
WARWICK, ANNO 1571.

Nowe whiles these things were thus in doing, happened a thing thought worthie to be remembred, the rather because it hapned in this place by occasion of the coming of the said earle to this towne of Warwick. And thus it was as is afore remembred. Amonge many noble personages coming to this towne to accompanye the said earle of Leicester, one William, lord marquiffe of Northampton*, being of the quene's privie counsaill, being long before sick and sore trowbled with the gowte, came with his ladye and wief to Warwick aforesaid, being so payned and feble that he was not hable to goo or stand, but was carryed betweene two of his servants from place to place upon a stoole for that purpose devised. This marquesse there contynewing, was sometyme better and sometimes woorse, but at no tyme hable to goo out of the chamber, in so much that the said earle of Leicester departing with the rest of the noblemen and others, left the said marques at Thomas Fisher's† house untill he might be

* William Parr, brother of queen Catharine Parr, was created earl of Essex, 35 Henry VIII. having married Catharine daughter and heiress of Henry Bourchier, earl of Essex and Eu, and 1 Edward VI. marquis of Northampton. He was divorced from his wife 5 Edward VI. and married Elizabeth daughter to lord Cobham, and on her death Helen daughter of Wolfgangus Swavenburgh, but had no issue by either. He was degraded from his title, and sentenced to die for joining Jane Grey against Mary, and though restored in blood, had no other title than William Parr, esq. till Elizabeth in her first year restored him to his estate and title.

† Thomas Hawkins, called Fisher from his father's having sold fish in Warwick market, was servant to John Dudley, earl of Warwick and marquis of Northumberland, and steward of his manor of Kibworth, co. Leicester. He had a grant of Warwick priory 38 Henry VIII. and many other lands in different counties in the reign of Edward VI. He pulled down the priory about 8 Elizabeth, and built a very fair house still to be seen, adorning the windows with his own arms and those of the

be better recovered, and assigned officers to diffray the chardges of his dyet and other things whiles he should be there, which was longer than was expected, for so it hapned that God had apointed his tyme, that on Saint Simon's and Jude's day, anno 1571, about four of the clock in the afternone, the said late marquesse gave up the ghost veary cristianly by all reaport, leaving behind him a ladye marchionesse, a straungier borne in Swe-
cia, the daughter of a knight whiles he lived, whose name was Woolf. This ladye being bothe yong and faire, cam into Eng-
land attending on the ladye of Sicilia, and here left behind at the request of this late nobleman, and was placed to attend the quene's majestie (as) her privie chamberlain, untill such tyme as God wold suffer the said marques, having then a wief alive, though divorced from him, to be cowpled with her in mariage, as he was in dede uppon the death of the late ladye Bowser. This marquesse so decess'd, not the richest man in Englonde, nor of sufficient living to make his said lady any jointure, it was doubtid howe and by whom he should be buryed, for the said lady had not wherewith to beare the chardge, and therefore order was give that his corps should be enchestid and kept untill the quene's pleasure therein myght be knowen; and after that some de-
maund towching that matter was made to the erle of Pembroke

the dukes of Somerset and Northumberland, and his own rebus, a dolphin or fish betweeu the initials T. R. calling it from its situation, almost surrounded by a grove of elms, *Hawkins* or *Hawk's nest*. He had a command at Musselburgh fight, where he took a standard with a griffin, which he had a grant to bear in his arms within a border vairè, which the duke of Somerset added in relation to one of the quarters of his own coat (*Beauchamp of Hache*) as an honourable badge for that service. The duke of Northumberland lodged in his hands a sum of money for the purpose of raising troops to support lady Jane Grey, which he hid in Bishop Ichington pool; and on the duke's execution could not be prevailed on by the most excruciating tor-
tures to discover it. He died Jan. 12, 1576, and was buried in St. Mary's, War-
wick, where his monument is yet to be seen. Dugd. Warw. I. 412. 457.

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his syfter's sonne*, his lordship offered towards the funerall 100*l*. as it was said, which being thought not sufficient to bear those chardges, it pleased her majesty to tak the whole charge uppon her, and appointed howe all things should be done, giving great chardge to the heraulds to see his obsequies performed with all solempnitie, according to his honorable calling, and therefore appointed Garter the king at armes, Norrey and Lancaster being herralds to be at this funerall, and appointed such clothe and other things as was necessary to be taken out of her great wardrobe to the doing thereof, and assigned John Fortescue, esq. master of her said warderobe, to see the diffraying of all maner of charge towching that buriall; all which things being put into order, the said Mr. Fortescue and Garter, and the other heraulds, cam to Warwick on Sonday the second of December, 1571, and there delivered to divers gentlemen and others their liveryes, viz. of black clothe five yards for evry gentleman, and for evry serving man two yards, and prepared all things against the funerall appointed to be on the Wensday following, being the 5th of December. At which funerall was said should have bene the earle of Pembroke chief mourner, the lord Barklay, and lord Vaux†, and the bishop of Worcester‡ to have done the obsequies; but howsoever it hapned, neither the earle of Pembroke, lord Vaux, nor bishop cam not, so as the lord Barkley was chief. Manye other knights and gentlemen were away which were said should have been there; but such as were

* Anne eldest daughter of Thomas lord Parr of Kendal, and sister to queen Catharine, married Henry Herbert earl of Pembroke, by whom he had Henry, who succeeded his father 1569, and died 1609. Dugd. Bar. II. 259. 260. He was heir to his uncle. Camd. Ann. Eliz. sub anno 1571. Dugd. ib. 382.

† William lord Vaux of Harrowden, co. Northampton, whose grandfather Nicholas married Elizabeth widow of Sir William Parr, knt. He died 1593. Dugd. Bar. II. 304. 305.

‡ Nicholas Bullingham, 1570—1577.

there were placid by the heraulds. And when all things were made redy, the corpes was set furth in maner folowing, viz. before the corpes went priests and minifters to the number of 20 or thereabouts; then followed William Beaumont in a black gowne and whood bering the ftanderd of the late marqueffe, then yong Mr. Lane bering his banner, then followid Lancafter in his coat of armes and berith his coat armour, then Norrey who berith the fworde and targe, then followeth Garter who beareth his hed piece and creft; then cometh the corpes being borne of eight gentlemen in black gownes; on the coffin was laid a lardge paule of the quene's, being of cloth of silver and baudekin hang- ed about full of fcucheons, which was fupported by foure of her gentlemen. About the corpes were carried by four other gentle- men in black gownes four bannerroles of difcent; and then fol- lowe the mourners, viz. the lord Barkley, chief mourner, affifted by Mr. William Gordge the penfioner; then followe Sir Richard Knightley and Sir Robert Lane, in black gownes; then Sir Fulke Grevile and Mr. Clement Throk Morton; then Mr. George Woolf, my ladye's brother, and one Mr. Wake, all in black gownes and whoods; then followid other gentlemen and yemen of the faid marqueffe's, to the number of 40 or thereabouts; gentlemen in gownes, and yomen in coates of black; then Mr. Clement Throk- morton's fervants, to the number of 20, all in black, though not of that livery; then followed Mr. Frekulton, the bailif's deputy, and the reft of the principall burgefles, with divers commoners of the towne; and then laftly ferving men in their maifter's liveryes. In this order they proceeded till they came to the church, where was prepared in the bodie of the church a hearfe ftanding upon four pillars roilid about, the pillars being by efti- macion 12 foot highe, covered with black clothe, having a tester of black clothe, on which were fastenyd five fcuchion of his armes in metall; the valaunce of black velvet and ruffet taffata, with a fringe of black filk. Upon the pillars were fixed fkutchions of

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his armes to the number of 11; about the valence were like scuchions to the number of 11; on the topp over the valence were set fourth pennons of his armes in metall upon farcenet, to the number of 40. Within the hears was a table fett, wheron the corpes was laid for the tyme of the sermon. On the pawle laid on the corpes was laid downe his coat armour; his fworde and targe, and his helmet, with a wreathe or role of black and yealowe farcenet, having mantells of black velvet hanging downe on either side, with knoppes guilt, and with tarselles of black filk fringe. Then was song a psalme, and that endid the sermon began, which was made by Mr. Raffe Griffin, preacher, who took for his theame these woords, viz. *Certamen bonum decertavi, cursum consummavi, fidem servavi: quod super est, reposita est michi justicie corona, quam reddet michi dominus in illo die qui est justus judex: non solum autem michi, sed et omnibus qui diligunt adventum ipsius, &c.** wherein both learnedly and eloquently he sett forth the lief of man to be a warfare and fight, impugned by many enemies, namely, the devil, the world, and the flesh; and howe every Christian man ought to fight against them, and with what armour he should be furnished; and then the victorie following, that is the crowne of glory; wherein also he did much recomend the vertue of this late marques, how strongly he had shewed himself, even till the last end and gaspe, most Christianly, by his testimonye as an eye-witness; and the assured hope he had in his rest; besides declared the great losse had happened by his taking away not only to that good lady his wief, but also to all his servants, as well gentlemen as others, whom he recomforted in that he was departed to God, &c. Which sermon so endid they procedid to the funerall in manner following. First came the thre herraults in order, Lancaster, Norrey, and Garter; and after them John Watts, gentleman-usher to my lord Barkley;

* 2 Tim. iv. 7, 8.

then

then the lord Barkley, who was affystid by Mr. William Gorge, hēring his trayne, and all the other morners attending on the said lorde, who was so conveid from the hearse to the quire, where at the comunyon-table stood the vikar of saint Maryes. After he had begonne the comemoracion of the comunyon so farre till he cam to the sentences for relief of the poore, whereof when he had redd two or three verses he staid, being so apointed by the herralds, and taking a bason, there prepared, in his hond, he recevid the offringe brought by the said lord Barkley and others; and the offrings were in this manner: first, the said lord being brought upp as before is said, offred for the estate a piece of gold being 5 s. then after curtesye made, as well by the said lord as the herralds and others, the said lord and others are conveid again to their place about the hearse; and then, Garter making lowe courtesy to the said lord Barkley, the said lord arriseth again and followeth Garter, who bringeth him to the comunyon-table again, where the vikar holding still the bason, the said lord offreth 12 d. for himself; which done, the said Garter conveid the said lord again to his place at the head of the corpes standing still in the body of the churche, and after obeyzance done Garter standith still. Then came Norrey and Lancaster, and making curtesy to Sir Richard Knightley and Sir Robert Lane, they two arrise, to whom the two herralds deliver the coate armor, which is holden between the said Sir Richard and Sir Robert, and is brought in sollemn maner and offred at the comunyon-table to the vikar; which done, they are conveid to their places by Norrey; but Lancaster stondith still at the table; then Norrey takith the sword and delivereth it to Sir Fulk Grevile, who, with Mr. Throkmorton, be brought in former maner to the comunyon-table; there they offer the sword to the vikar as before, and so are reduced to their places. Then Norrey delivereth to Mr. George Woulf and Mr. Wake the targe, who takinge it betweene them,

are conveid by Norrey to the said communyon-table, and there offer it, and so are reduced to their places. Then Norrey delivereth to Sir Richard Knightley and Sir Robert Lane the head-piece and crest, which between them they bring upp and offer as afore said. Then both Norrey and Lancaster goo downe, conveying the said knyghts to their places. And this done, Norrey bringith up again Sir Richard Knightley and Sir Robert Lane to the table, where they offer pieces of silver. Then Lancaster bringith up Sir Fulk Grevile and Mr. Clement Throkmorton, who also offer. Then Norrey bringith up Mr. George Woulf and Mr. Wake, who likewise offer. Then Lancaster bringith up Mr. Fortescue, Mr. Olney, Mr. Butler, and Mr. Monfewold, who were the supporters of the paule, and thus all offer and depart again to their places. Then dothe Norrey bring up Mr. William Lane, who offreth up the great square banner. Then Lancaster bringith up William Beamont, who offreth up his standerd. Then Lancaster bringith up all the marques' men, who offer in order: first, Mr. Odell, Mr. Rowse, Mr. Snobal, having white staves, as officers; then all the rest of the gentlemen, and so the yomen, evry man in his order and office, who, after they have offred, depart downe again. After all these offrings done, a few prayers said, and a psalme song during the time of the offering, the corpes is by eight gentlemen assisted with the four supporters taken up from the table within the hearse, and brought upp attendid on by the foure gentlemen that bare the banner-roles, till they come to the place made for the grave, being right against the tombe in the quier, on the north side of the same tombe, betweene the doores of the vestry and the chapter-house, where the same corpes is enterrid, together with the white staves of the officers and many teares; there to rest till God otherwise provide. And so thes obsequies done, the lords and gentlemen repayre to Mr. Fysher's to dynner, and their had a great feast, all at the chardge

chardge of the quene's majesty till dynner was done. Then on the morrowe the coat-armor, helme, crest, targe, and sword were hangid up, and so were the stander-banner and banner-roles, over the place where the bodie lieth. And so all these things finished, the herraulds claiming the hearse and all about to be their fees, woold have taken the same downe the next daye; but uppon enttreaty to let it stand, they were content to sell it to Jo Fysher, who gave them eight pounds therfore. In which bargain he had none of the cloth which was hangid on the utter rales, neither about the hearse; which he bought, not so much for the value therof, as for that the country people resorting to the towne might see the honorable order of part of the said funerall, which standing, is also a bewtifieng of the church. Fol. 44—46.

The whole of the offerings amounted to 1*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.**

* "On the North side of the quire towards the upper end lyeth interred William Parr, marquisse of Northampton, as by his atchievements, viz. his coate of armes, sword, shield, helme, and crest, which I have seen there hanging, appeareth; but forasmuch as there is no monumental inscription, I have here transcribed what Mr. Cambden in his Annals of Queen Elizabeth, anno 1571, hath said of him.

"Supremum vitæ diem hoc anno placide egit Gulielmus Parrus marchio Northamptoniæ, amœnioribus studiis musicis amatoris & ceteris aulæ jucunditatibus versatissimus; qui ab Henrico VIII. primum ad dignitatem baronis Parr de Kendalla, deinde ad nuptias Annæ Bouchieræ comitis Essexiæ unicæ hæredis & simul ad comitis Essexiæ titulum cum rex ejus sororem duxisset; atque ab Edw° VI ad marchionis Northamptoniæ styllum & honorem provectus; sub Maria quod pro Jana Graia regina subornata arma sumpserit majestatis dampnatus, ab eadem tamen mox condonatus, & ad patrimonium ut postea ab Elizabetha ad honores restitutus. Liberos genuit nullos; sed Henricum Pembrochiæ comitem ex altera sorore nepotem reliquit hæredem." Dugd. Warw. 443, Ed. Thomas.

"His body about 50 years since (scil. 1626) being digged up to make room for the burial of an ordinary gentlewoman, was found perfect, the skin intire, dried to the bones, rosemary and bayes lying in the coffin fresh and green; all which wete so preserved by the dryness of the ground whereon they lay, it being above the arches of that fair vault which is under the quire, and of a sandy condition, mixt with rubbish of lime, as hath been related to me by those who were eye-witnesses thereof." Dugd. Bar. II. 382.

QUEEN

EXTRACTS FROM THE

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S COMING TO WARWICK, ANNO 1572.

Be it remembrid, that in the yere of our Lord God 1572, and in the fourtenith yere of the reigne of our fouereigne lady quene Elizabeth, the 12th day of August in the said yere, it pleased our said fouereigne lady to visit this borough of Warwick in her highnes' person, whereof the bailief of this borough and the principall burgeses being advysed by the right honorable therle of Leycester, the said bailief and principall burgeses affoiated, with some other of the commoners, after the election of Edward Aglionby to be their recorder, in place of Sir William Wigston, knight, prepared themselves according to there bounden duety to attend her hieghnes at the uttermost confynes of their libertye, towards the place from whence her majesty should come from dynner, which was at Ichington *, the house of Edward Fysher, being two miles from Warwick, where it pleased her highnes to dyne the said 12th of August, being Monday. The direct way from thence leading by Tachebrok, and so through Myton Field; and therefore it was thought convenient by the said bailief, recorder, and burgeses, to expect her majesty at the gate betweene Tachebrok feld and Myton feld. Nevertheless the weather having bene very fowle long tyme before, and the way much staynid with carriage, her majesty was led an other way thorough Cherterton pastures, and so by Okeley, and by that meanes came towards the towne by Fourd Myll, whereof the said bailief, recorder, and burgeses having word, they left there place afore taken, and resortid to the said Four Myl Hill, where being placid

* Ichington, or Long Ichington, belonged to Robert earl of Leicester, who on Saturday July 9, 1575, gave queen Elizabeth a glorious entertainment here on her passage to Kenelworth castle, erecting a tent of extraordinary largeness for that purpose, the piers belonging whereto amounted to seven cart loads, by which the magnificence thereof may be guest at. Dugd. Warw. 345.

in order, first the bailief, than the recorder, than eich of the principall burgeses in order kneling, and behind Mr. bailief knelid Mr. Griffyn preacher, her maiesty about three of the klok in her coache accompanied with the lady of Warwick in the same coche, and many other ladys and lordes attending, namely, the lord Burghley, lately made lord tresurer of Englund, the earle of Suffex, lately made lord chamberleyne to her maiesty; the lord Howard of Effingham, lately made lord pryvy seale; the earle of Oxford, lord gret chamberleyn of Englund; therle of Rutlond; therle of Huntingdon, lately made president of the north, therle of Warwick, therle of Leycester, master of the horse, and many other lords, bishops, ladyes, and great estates aprochid, and came as nere as the coache could be brought nyeghe to the place where the said bailief and company knelid, and there staid, causing evry part and side of the coache to be openyd that all her subjects present might behold her, which most gladly they desired; wherupon, after a pause made, the said recorder began his oracion to her majesty, and spake as hereafter followeth: "The maner and custome to salute princes
 " with publik oracions hath bene of long tyme usid, most excellent and gracious souereigne ladie, begonne by the Greeks,
 " confirmed by the Romaynes, and by discourse of tyme continued even to thies our daies; and because the same were
 " made in publike places and open assemblies of senators and
 " counsaillors, they were callid bothe in Greek and Latyne *panegyricæ*. In thies were sett fourth the commendacions of
 " kings and emperors, with the sweet found whereof, as the eares
 " of evill prynces were delightid by hearing there undeservid
 " praises, so were good princes by the pleasaunt remembrance
 " of their knowen and true vertues made better, being put in
 " mynde of their office and government. To the performance of
 " thies oracions of all the three stiles of rhertoryk or fyne
 " speech,

“ speech, the hieghest was requyred, which thing considerid,
“ most gracious ladie, abasith me very much to undertake this
“ interprice, being not exercised in thies studies, occupied and
“ traveling in the comon and private affaires of the countrey
“ and your hieghnes’ service here. The maiestie of a prynce’s
“ countenance, such as is reportid to have been in Alexander,
“ in the noble Romaine Marius, in Octavius themperor, and
“ of late tyme in the wise and politique prince king Henry the
“ seaventh your graundfather, and in your noble and victorious
“ father king Henry the eight, whose lookes appallid the stout
“ corages of their beholders, the same also remaning naturally
“ in your highnes maye soone put me bothe out of countenance
“ and remembrance also; which if it happen, I most humbly be-
“ seech your highnes to laie the fault there, rather than to any
“ other my folly, negligence, or want of regard of my dutie,
“ who coulde not have bene brought to this place, if the good
“ will which I have to declare both myne owne duetifull hart
“ towards your highnes, and theirs also who inioyned me this
“ office, had not farre surmountid the feare and disability which
“ I felt in myself. But the best remedie for this purpose is to
“ shourt of spech which I entend to use in this place, who hav-
“ ing spoken a fewe things towching the auncient and present
“ estate of this borough, and of the ioyfull expectacion which
“ thinhabitants of the same have of your grace’s repayre hither,
“ will not trouble your hieghnes with any further talke; for if I
“ shoulde enter into the comendacion of the divyne gifte of your
“ roiall person, of the rare vertues of your mynde ingrafted in
“ you from your tender yeres, of the prosperous achievement
“ of all your noble affaires to the contentacion of your hieghnes
“ and the mealth of your domynyons, I should rather want tyme
“ than mater, and be tedious to your heighnes, when I should
“ bothe to myself and others have seemed to skant in praises.

“ And

“ And yet if wee should forgett to call to remembrance the great
 “ benifits receivid from God by the happy and long desired en-
 “ traunce of your majesty into thimperial throne of this realme;
 “ after the pitifull slaughter and exile of many of your hieghnes
 “ godly subiects, the restauracion of God’s true religion, the speedie
 “ chaunge of warres into peace, of dearth and famine into plentie,
 “ of an huge masse of drosse and counterfait monye into fyne
 “ golde and silver, to your hieghnes’ gret honor, whose prosperous
 “ reigne hitherto hath not bene towchid with any trowbelous
 “ season (the rude blast of one insurrection * except), which being
 “ soone blowen over and appeased by God’s favor and your ma-
 “ jesty’s wisdome, hathe made your happy government to shyne
 “ more gloriously, even as the sonne after darke clowdes ap-
 “ pereth more cleare and beawtifull. If this, I saie, weare not
 “ remembrid, we might seme unthankfull unto God, unnaturall
 “ to your maiestie; of which thing I would saie more if your
 “ maiestie were not present; but I will leave, confidering rather
 “ what your modest eares may abide, than what is due to your
 “ virtues, thanking God that he hathe sent us such a prynce
 “ in deede; as the noble senator, Caius Plinius, truly reported
 “ of the good emperor Traianus, calling him in his presence,
 “ without feare of flattery, *castum, sanctum, et Deo simillimum prin-*
 “ *cipem.* But to returne to the auncient estate of this towne of
 “ Warwik, wee reade in olde writings and autenticall cronycles
 “ the same to have bene a citie or wallid towne in the tyme of
 “ the Brytayns, callid then Carwar; and afterwards, in the tyme
 “ of the Saxons, that name was chaungid into Warwik. We
 “ reade also of noble earles of the same, namely of one Guido or
 “ Guye, who being baron of Wallingford, became earle of War-

* The conspiracy and rebellion of the earls of Northumberland and Westmore-
 land in the North 1569, which were followed by that of the lord Dacre the same
 year; but both soon suppressed. Rapin, VIII. 408—410.

wik by marriage of the ladie Felixe, the sole doughter and
heyre of that house in the tyme of king Athelston, who rayned
over this lande about the yere of our Lorde God 933. Wee
reade also that it was indowed with a bishoppe's fee, and so
continued a flourishing citie untill the tyme of king Etheldred,
in whose dayes it was sackid and brent by the Daynes, and
brought to utter desolacion, the common evil of all barbarous
nacions overflowing civill countreys, as may appeare by the
famouse cities and monuments of Germanye, Fraunce, and
Italye, defaced and destroyed by the Goathes, Vandales, Nor-
mans, and Hunnes. Synce this overthrowe it was never hable
to recover the name of a citie, supportid onely of long tyme by
the countenance and liberality of the earles of that place, espe-
cially of the name of Beawchampe, of whom your maiestie may
see divers noble monuments remanyng here untill this daie,
whose noble services to their prynces and countrey are re-
cordid in histories in the tyme of king Henry the third, king
Edward the first, second and thirde, and so untill the tyme of
king Henry the sixt, about whose tyme that house being ad-
vanced to a dukedom, even in the toppe of his honor failed in
heires males, and so was translated to the house of Salisbury,
which afterward decayd also. And so this earledome being
extinct in the tyme of your heighnes' graundfather king Henry
the seventh, remained so all the tyme of your noble father our
late dear soveraigne king Henry the eight, who, having com-
passion of the pitifull desolacion of this towne, did incorporate
the same by the name of burgeses of the towne of Warwik,
endowing them also with possessions and lands to the value of
54*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* by yere, inioyning them withall to kepe a vykar
to serve in the church, and dyvers other ministers, with a
skolemaister for the bringing up of youth in learnyng and ver-
tue. The noble prynces quene Mary, your heighnes' sister,
following

following the example of her father in respect of the anciantnes
 of the said towne, by her lettres patents augmented the corpo-
 ration by creating a bailief and twelve principall burgeffes, with
 divers other liberties and franchises to thadvancement of the
 poore towne, and the perpetuall fame and praise of her good-
 nefs so long as the fame shall stand. Your maiestie hath gra-
 ciously confirmed thies lettres patents, adding therunto the
 greatest honor that ever came to the towne fins the deokay of
 the earles Beawchampe afore namyd, by giving unto them an
 earle, a noble and valiaunt gentleman*, lyneally extracted out
 of the same house; and further, of your great good bountifull-
 nes, your maiesty hath advaunced his noble and worthy bro-
 ther to like dignytie and honor, establisshing him in the confynes
 of the same libertie; to the great good and benifite of the in-
 habitants of this towne, of whose liberalitie (being inhabilitid by
 your hieghnes only) they have bountifullly tasted, by enioying
 from him the erection of an hospitall to the relief of the poore
 of the same towne for ever, besides an annuall pencion of fivetie
 poundes by yere bestowed by him upon a preacher, without the
 which they should lack the heavenly foode of ther soules by
 want of preaching, the towne being not hable to fynde the
 same, by reason that the necessary charges and stipend of the
 ministers and other officers there farre surmount their yerely
 revenus, notwithstanding the bountifull gift of your noble fa-
 ther bestowing the same to their great good and benifyt. Such
 is your gracious and bountifull goodness; such are the persones
 and fruytes rising up and springing out of the same. To which
 twoo noble personages I knowe your maiestie's presence here
 to be most comfortable, most desired, and most welcome; and
 to thinhabitants of this towne the same dothe bode and pro-

* Ambrose Dudley, created earl of Warwick 1561, 4 Elizabeth, with remainder to his brother Robert earl of Leicester, who died before him.

" norticate the conversion of their old fatall de kaye and poverty
 " into some better estate and fortune, even as the comyng of Ca-
 " rolus Magnus to the old ruynes of Aquisgrain, nowe callid
 " Achi* in Brabant, being an auncient citie buyldid by one Gra-
 " nus, brother to Nero†, was the occasion, by the pitiful com-
 " passion of so noble a prynce to reedifye the same, and to ad-
 " vauunce it to such honor, as untill this day it recevith every
 " emperor at his first coronacion. But what cause soever hath
 " brought your maiestie hither, either the bewtifulnes of the
 " place, or your heighnes' gracious favor to thies parties, surely
 " the incomparable joy that all this countrey hathe recevid for
 " that it hathe pleased you to blesse them with your comfortable
 " presence cannot be by me expressid. But as their duetifull hartes
 " can shewe themselves by externall signes and testymonyes, so
 " may it to your maiestie appeare. The populus concourse of
 " this multitude; the wayes and streetes filled with companyes
 " of all ages desirous to have the fruicion of your divine coun-
 " tenance; the houses and habitacions themselves chaungid from
 " their old naked barenes into a more freshe shewe, and, as it
 " were, a smyling livelynes, declare sufficiently, though I
 " spake not at all, the ioyfull hartes, the singler affections, the
 " readie and humble good willes of us your truehartid subjects.
 " And for further declaracion of the same, as the bailief and
 " burgeses of this poore towne doo present to your maiestie a
 " simple and small gift comyng from large and ample willing
 " hartes, though the same be in dede but as a droppe of water
 " in the ocean sea, in comparison of that your maiestie deservith,
 " and yet in their substance as much as the twoo mytes of the
 " poore widowe mencioned in the Scripture: so there hope and
 " most humble desire is that your heighnes will accept and allowe
 " the same, even as the said twoo mytes were allowid, or as the

* Aix or Aix la Chapelle.

† A legendary foundation.

"handfull of water was acceptid of Alexander the Great, offred
"unto him by a poore soldier of his; mesuring the gift, not by
"the value of it, but by the redie will of the offerers, whom your
"maiestie shall finde as readie and willing to any service that
"youe shall ymploy them in as those that be greatest. And
"thus craving pardon for my rude and lardge speach, I make an
"end, desiring God long to contynewe your maiestie's happy and
"prosperous reigne over us, even to Nestor's years, if it be his
"good pleasure. Amen, Amen."

This oracion endid, Robart Philippes, bailief, rising out of
the place where he knelid, approchid nere to the coche or chariott
wherin her maiesty satt, and coming to the side therof, kneeling
downe, offred unto her maiesty a purse very faire wrought, and
in the purse twenty pounds, all in souereignes, which her
maiestie putting furth her hand recevid, showing withall a very
benign and gracious countenance, and, smyling, said to therle of
Leycester, "My lord, this is contrary to your promise;" and
turnyng towards the bailief, recorder, and burgesse, said,
"Bailief, I thank you, and you all, with all my hart, for your
"good willes, and I am very lothe to tak any thing at your
"hands now, because youe at the last tyme of my being here
"presentid us to our great liking and contentacion, and it is not
"the maner to be alwayes presentid with gifts, and I am the
"more unwilling to tak any thing of you, because I knowe that
"a myte of their haunds is as much as a thowfand pounds of
"some others; nevertheless, because you shall not think that I
"mislike of your good willes, I will accept it with most hearty
"thanks to you all, praying God that I may perform, as Mr.
"Recorder saith, such benifyt as is hopid." And therewithall
offred her hand to the bailief to kisse, who kissed it, and than she
deliverid to him agayn his mase, which before the oracion he
had deliverid to her maiesty, which she kept in her lappe all the
tyme.

tyme of the oracion. And after the mace delivered, she called Mr. Aglionby to her, and offered her hand to him to kisse, withall smyling, said, "Come hither, little recorder; it was told me that youe wold be afraid to look upon me, or to speake boldly; but you were not so fraid of me as I was of youe, and I nowe thank you for putting me in mynde of my duety, and that should be in me." And so therupon shewing a most gracious and favorable countenance to all the burgeses and company, said again, "I most hartely thank you all my good people." This being done, Mr. Griffyn, the preacher, aproching nigh her maiesty, offered a paper to her, and knelid downe, to whom she said, "if it be any matter to be aunswerid, we will look upon it and give your aunswer at my lord of Wyrwik's house." And so was desirous to be going. The contents of Mr. Griffyn's writing was as hereafter folowith in verse:

risit absit letum; dignare amplectier omne
 t firmo vitæ producas stamina nex
 explorans gressu sepisti incedere Cale
 urida sulphurei qua torquent tela ministr
 n capita authorum lex est ea iusta resultant
 ic tibi demonstras animi quid in hoste fugand
 gmina cum fundas regno nocitura maloru
 ella geris parce, illicite non suscipis arm
 xempla illorum nunquam tibi mente recedun
 urpe quibus visum magna cum clade precess
 ima vernis vultu, sed Christus pectore fectu
 ere ut ferveat cor religionis amor
 n verbis Pallas, factis Astrea tenetur
 ara ut Penelope regia, nescia Debora vinc
 men triste absit, defuncta propagine vive
 Glorie Anglorum modo non cadent
 Te cadit flos, sed perit ipsa radix.
 Regio ni ex te folio quiescat
 Sceptri fer hares.

* The initials and finals make *Tu Elisabetha viro nubis, o mater eris.*

Apparent tenebræ occidente sole,

Alternantque vices quies laborque.

Postquam federa desiere pacis

Squalet terribilis lues Mavortis,

Queque olim Nemesis reciprocatur:

Que sunt ante pedes videre tantum

Non prudentis erit, futura longe

Quam sint prospicere est opus laborque:

Est solum patriæ salutis ardor

Quo post funera regium relucet

Nomen sidereo nitens vigore;

Nec cum corporis interit ruina.

Hec quorsum? an patriæ studere cessas?

Quo cessas minus, hoc magis superfis

Omnēs unisono ore vota fundunt.

At vitæ notuere terminos dii,

Atque equo pede pauperum tabernas

Pulsat mors tetra, principumque turres,

Vivunt prole tamen sua parentes.

Sed quid plura? Deo regente, reges.

Thies verses her maiestie deliverid to the countes of Warwick riding with her in the coche, and my lady of Warwick showid them to Mr. Aglionby, and Mr. Aglionby to this writer, who took a copie of them.

Than the bailief, recorder, and principall burgesſes, with their affistants, were comaunded to their horses, which they took with as good spede as the might, and in order rode two and two together before her maiesty, from the fourd mil hill till they cam to the castell gate, and thus were they marshallid by the heraldes and gentlemen ushers. First, the attendantes or affistants to the bailief to the nomber of thirty, two and two together, in coates of puke* laid on with lace; than the twelve principall burgesſes in

* Grey colour. So puke stockings, in Shakspeare's Henry IV. part I. scene IV. are grey stockings. In Barret's *Alvearie*, an old Latin and English dictionary, printed 1580, puke is explained as being a colour between russet and black, and is rendered in Latin *pullus*. Steevens. The gowns of some of the under officers of the university of Cambridge are of this colour laced with gold.

gownes

gownes of puke lyned with fatten and damask, upon foot clothes; than two bishoppes; than the lords of the counsaill; than next before the quene's maiestie was placid the bailief in a gowne of scarlet, on the right hand of the lord Compton*, who than was high shiref of this shire, and therefore wold have carried up his rod into the towne; which was forbidden him by the heralds and gentlemen ushers, who therfore had placid the bailief on the right hand with his mace; and in this maner her hieghnes was conveid to the castell gate, where the said principall burgessees and assistants staid, evry man in his order, deviding them selfs on either side, making a lane or rounge where her maiestie should passe; who passing thorough them, and viewing them well, gave them thanks, saing withall, "It is a wel-favored and comly company:" what that meant, let him divyne that can. The bailief nevertheless rode into the castell, still carrieng his mace, being so directid by the gentlemen ushers and heralds, and so attendith her maiestie up into the hall; which done, he reparid home, on whom the principall burgessees and comoners attendid to his house, from whence every man repayred to his owne home, and Mr. Recorder went with John Fisher, where he was simply lodgid; because the best lodgings were taken up by Mr. Comptroller. That Monday night her maiesty tarried at Warwik, and so all Tuesday. On Wensday she desired to goo to Kenelworth, leaving her household and trayne still at Warwik, and so was on Wensday morning conveid thorough the streetes to the north gate, and from thens thorough Mr. Thomas Fisher's groundes, and so by Woodloes, the farest way to Kenelworth, where she restid, at the chardge of the lord of Leicester, from Wensday morning till Saturday night, having in the meane tyme such princely sports made to her maiesty as could be devised. On Saturday night very late her

* Query, Henry Compton, earl of Northampton, who died 1590.





The neglected remains of the Statue of Guy Earl of Warwick in the Chapel of Guy'scliff now a carpenters Shop near Warwick. This sketch taken & finished on the spot, July 30. 1782, by J. Carter.

maiesty returned to Warwik; and because she woold see what chere my lady of Warwik made, she sodenly went into Mr. Thomas Fisher's house, and there fynding them at supper, satt downe a while, and after a little repast rose agayne, leaving the rest at supper, and went to visite the good man of the house, Thomas Fisher, who at that tyme was grevously vexid with the gowt; who being brought out into the galory, and woold have knelid or rather fallen downe, but her maiesty wold not suffer it, but with most gracious words comfortid him; so that, forgetting or rather counterfeyting his payne, he woold in more hast than good spede be on horseback the next tyme of her going abroad, which was on Monday folowing, whan he rode with the lord tresorer, attending her maiesty to Kenelworth again, reaporting such things as, some for their untruethes and some for other causes, had bene better untold; but as he did it counsell rashly and in heat, so by experience at leysure coldly he repentid. What thies things meane is not for evry one to knowe. But to returne. Her maiesty that Saturday night was lodgid agayn in the castell at Warwik; where also she restid all Sondag, where it pleasid her to have the countrey people, resorting to see her daunce in the court of the castell, her maiesty beholding them out of her chamber wyndowe; which thing, as it pleasid well the country people, so it femed her maiesty was much delightyd and made very myrry. That afternone passid, and supper done, a showe of firewoorks, prepayrid for that purpose in the Temple felds, was sett abroche, the maner wherof this writer cannot so truly set furth as if he had bene at hit, being than sick in his bed. But the report was, that there was devised on the Temple dicke a fort made of slender tymber coverid with canvais. In this fort were apointid divers persons to serve as soldiers, and therefore so many harnesses as might be gotten within towne were had, wherewith men were armed and apointid to shewe themselves; some

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others apointid to cast out fire-woorks, as squibbes and balles of fyre. Against that fort was another castelwise prepared of like strength, wherof was governor the earle of Oxford *, a lusty gentleman, with a lusty band of gentlemen. Betweene thies forts or against them were placid certen battering pieces to the number of twelve or fourteen, brought from London, and twelve faire chambers or mortyr-pieces brought also from the Towre, at the chardge of therle of Warwik. Thies pieces and chambers were by traynes fyred, and so made a great noise, as though it had bene a fore affault; having some intermiffion, in which tyme therle of Oxford and his soldiers, to the number of 200, with qualiyers † and harquebuyces, likewise gave divers affaults; they in the fort shoting agayn, and casting out divers fyers, terrible to those that have not bene in like experiences, valiant to such as delightid therin, and in dede straunge to them that understood it not; for the wildfyre falling into the ryver Avenwold for a tyme lye still, and than agayn rise and flye abrode, casting furth many flasches and flambes, whereat the quene's maiesty took great pleasure; till after, by mischance, a poore man or two were much trowbled. For at the last, whan it was apointid that the overthrowing of the fort should bee, a dragon flieing, casting out huge flames and squibes, lighted upon the fort, and so set fyere thereon, to the subversion therof; but whether by negligence or otherwise, it happned that a ball of fyre fell on a house at the end of the bridge, wherin one Henry Cowper, otherwise called Myller, dwellid, and sett fyre on the same house, the man and wief being bothe in bed and in slepe, which burned so as before any reskue could be the house and all things in it utterly perished, with much ado to save the man and woman; and besides that house, another house or two nere adjoyning were

* Edward Vere, who married a daughter of treasurer Burghley, and died 1604.

† Calibers.

also

also fyred, but reskued by the diligent and carefull helpe, as well of therle of Oxford, Sir Fulke Grevile, and other gentlemen and townesmen, which reparid thither in greater number than could be orderid. And no marvaile it was that so little harme was done, for the fireballes and squibbes cast upp did flye quiet over the castell and into the myds of the towne, falling downe, some on houses, some in courts and bakfides, and some in the streete, as farre as almost to saint Mary church, to the great perill or else great feare of the inhabitants of this borough: and, so as by what meanes is not yet knowen, foure houses in the towne and suburbs were on fyre at once, wherof one had a ball came thorough bothe sides, and made a hole as big as a man's head, and did no more harme. This fyre appeasid, it was tyme to goo to rest; and in the next morning it pleasid her maiesty to have the poore old man and woman that had their house brent brought unto her, whom so brought, her maiesty recomfortid very much; and by her grace's bounty, and other courtiers, there was given towards their losses that had taken hurt 25*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* or therabouts, which was disposid to them accordingly. On Monday her maiesty taking that plesure in the sport she had at Kenelworth, wold thither agayn, where she restid till the Saturday after, and than from thens by Charlecot she went to the lord Compton's*, and so forwards, &c. Fol. 65-70.

ORDER FOR ASSISTING JOHN SPEED IN COMPLEATING HIS MAPS
OF GREAT BRITAIN, JUNE 17, 1607.

WHEREAS John Speede, citizen of London, and servant to our gracious souvraigne the king's maiestie, hath heretofore made and presented to his highness a card or mapp of the whole empire

* At Compton in Warwickshire.

of Great Britaine, and now intendeth by God's permission and assistance to add to all and every particular shire and countie of this realme the true platforme and scituation of all the auncient and honorable armes of those most noble families that have had the dignities and titles of dukes, marquesses, and earles of every severall county, citty, and place therein conteyned, and created since the Normaine's conquest; and also such memorable and worthy monuments as concerneth every of them, with such antiquities as therin are yet seen and remaininge, or els hath been there found; the true descriptions of which he can no way effect or perfectlie performe (as he informeth us) without the present vew and sight thereof: These are therefore to pray and desire all and every of you to whom it shall appertaine, to suffer the said John Speede, and all such others as he shall imploy herein, quietlie to effect and finish this commendable worke which he hath in hand in all and evry place of this kingdom whereunto he shall be occasioned to repaire, without anie of your letts or hinderances; so as always the said John Speede and his assistants in this busines doe give no occasion of offence, and doe well and honestlie beare and behave themselves accordinge to the laws and statutes of this realme: whereof, not dowbtinge of your good regard to be had hereunto, we bid you hartelie farewell. From the court at Whitehall, the 17th of June, 1607.

R. CANT. T. ELLESMERE, Canc. T. DORSET.

T. NORTHAMPTON.

E. ZOUCHE.

E. WOTTON.

T. STANHOPE.

J. HERBERT.

MEMOIR

[29]

MEMOIR ON THE STORY OF GUY EARL OF WARWICK.

BY THE REV. SAMUEL PEGGE, M.A.

IN A LETTER TO THE LATE BISHOP LYTTTELTON.

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES May 7, 1767.

MY LORD,

Some authors of great note having espoused the story of Guy earl of Warwick, and his single combat with the giant Colbrand, as John Leland*, Mr. Camden †, Dr. Heylin ‡, Sir William Dugdale ||, and others, conceiving it to be a genuine and real matter of fact, it may be worth while to examine the truth of this singular portion of our history in few words. It is true the great names I have mentioned may deserve the highest regard, and exact from us a very particular and accurate discussion, on account of the supreme rank which they hold amongst our British antiquaries; but enough, I apprehend, may be said in a short compass, to discredit the story, and therefore I am loath to trespass too much either upon your lordship's time or patience.

That there might be such a person as Guy in the Saxon times, and a soldier of eminence, I shall not be so hardy as to deny; but that he was earl of Warwick, and fought a duel with Colbrand for the crown of England, is extremely improbable, for certain reasons to be assigned below. As to the earldom, it is supposed that Rohand earl of Warwick, who flourished in the reigns of king Elfred and king Edward the Elder, left issue only one daughter, named Felicia, who married Guy, son of Siward, baron of Wallingford, which Guy, who is the person here in question, became, in her right, earl of Warwick §.

* Itin. vol. IV. p. 63.

† Brit. col. 143.

‡ Hist. of St. George, p. 63. Cosmogr. I. p. 270.

|| Antiq. of Warw. p. 183. 298, 299.

§ Ibid. p. 299.

But now let us turn to the subject of the battle, and here I shall give your lordship the words of the famous Warwick antiquary, John Rous, whose name may consequently be added to the learned antiquaries above-mentioned*, concerning it.

‘Hujus regis (Athelstani) regni anno tertio, anno Domini 926,
 ‘apud Wintoniam iiij idus Julii commissum erat fortissimum du-
 ‘ellum pro jure Angliæ inter regum pugiles Angliæ et Danmar-
 ‘chiæ, Guidonem, videlicet, Comitem de Warrewyke et Colli-
 ‘brundum immanis staturæ virum, natione Africanum et fide
 ‘Paganum, sed, Deo propitius agente, Christianorum miles. An-
 ‘gelica munitione† acceptus, et in Christiana fide servus Dei
 ‘fidelis, Dei, ecclesiæ, et totius regni Angliæ inimicum feliciter
 ‘devicit, ut testantur in chronicis suis Henricus Knyghton,
 ‘Thomas Rodburn, Giraldus Cambrensis, Johannes Strench, Jo-
 ‘hannes Hardyng, Johannes Gresley, Johannes Poutrel, et multi
 ‘alii.’ Roffus Warwic. p. 97, seq. See also the same author,
 p. 208. The purport of which narrative is, ‘That in the third
 ‘year of the reign of king Athelstan, A.D. 926, on the 12th of
 ‘July, a most fierce combat was fought at Winchester for the crown
 ‘of England, between the champion of the king of England and the
 ‘Danish king‡, namely, Guy earl of Warwick and Collibrund
 ‘a man of immense stature and a Pagan African. But through
 ‘the mercy of God, the Christian hero, permitted to fight by an
 ‘angelic vision, and a sincere servant of God in the Christian

* You may add also the seven authors cited by him below; as also Colman, Chaucer, Skelton, the metrical Romance mentioned by Dr. Percy, III. p. xviii. the old song there, p. 108, &c. and even Mr. Hearne, who so lately as 1733 has printed the story from Girardus Cornubiensis without the least intimation of doubt as to its authenticity.

† For *munitione*; see the story in Dugdale. I have translated it accordingly.

‡ I do not suppose he was king of Denmark, but only of those Danes that landed here in England. Hardyng, however, fol. cxiii. calls him king of Denmark, and perhaps others may do the same; but Dugdale calls Anlaf and Govelaph only Danish generals, p. 299, and see Girardus Cornub. in Annal. Dunstapl. II. p. 825.

‘faith,

' faith, happily overcame that enemy of God, his church, and
 ' the whole realm of England; as Henry Knighton, Thomas
 ' Rodburn, Giraldus Cambrensis, John Strench, John Hardyng,
 ' John Gresley, John Pontrel, and many others testify in their
 ' respective chronicles.' But before I enter into any remarks on
 this passage, I will give your lordship the words of Sir William
 Dugdale, in order to shew how grossly he swallows all this. ' The
 ' memory, says he, of which Guy, for his great valour, hath ever
 ' since been, and yet is so famous, that the vulgar are of opinion
 ' he was a man of more than ordinary stature; and the Welch,
 ' taking notice of his brave exploits, will needs have him be de-
 ' scended from British parentage; but of his particular adven-
 ' tures, lest what I say should be suspected for fabulous, I will
 ' only instance that combat betwixt him and the Danish champion
 ' Colebrand, whom some (to magnify our noble Guy the more)
 ' report to have been a giant. The story whereof, however it
 ' may be thought fictitious by some, forasmuch as there be those
 ' that make a question whether there was ever really such a man;
 ' or, if so, whether all be not a dream which is reported of him,
 ' in regard that the monks have sounded out his praises so hy-
 ' perbolically; yet those that are more considerate will neither
 ' doubt the one nor the other, inasmuch as it hath been so usual
 ' with our antient historians, for the encouragement of after-ages
 ' unto bold attempts, to set forth the exploits of worthy men with
 ' the highest encomiums imaginable; and therefore should we
 ' for that cause be so conceited as to explode it? All history of
 ' those times might as well be vilified.' After which this great
 man proceeds to give us the story of the monomachy at large,
 from Rudburn, Gerard de Cornubiâ*, and Knighton; authors,
 as he styles them, of good credit.

* This author, I imagine, is the same with Giraldus Cambrensis above; for see
 Tanner's Bibl. p. 326; however, his narrative is printed by Hearne in Append. ad
 Annal. Dunstapl. p. 825.

Rous, your lordship observes, cites various authors, and indeed he tells us, p. 54, that many books had been written on the subject of this pretended champion's life. The oldest of these he mentions, I presume, are Henry Knighton and Giraldus Cambrensis*. Knighton flourished in the reign of Richard II. and has left us a very full and ample account of the combat; and it is certain that Chaucer, who was something older than Knighton, mentions the romance of Sir Gie†. Besides, there was a tradition of Sir Guy in the time of king Edward I. for it is supposed that William Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who died A. D. 1298, or 26 Edward I. called his eldest son Guy, in memory of this famous Guy earl of Warwick, so renowned for his valour in the Saxon times‡. Dugdale also tells us, in his Baronage, II. p. 76, that Thomas Holland, duke of Surrey, in 21 Richard II. had a grant from the king of those pieces of arras hangings (at Warwick castle) which did concern the story of Guy of Warwick. All this shews that the legend of Sir Guy was of great antiquity; indeed it may be carried up much higher than the times here specified. Giraldus Cambrensis is said to have been 70 years of age anno 1210||; and he, your lordship remembers, is quoted by Rous: and John Hardyng, in his Chronicle, names Colman as the author followed by him; now this must be either Colman Sapiens, or Colman the monk of Worcester, who died A. D. 1113§. However, these are the most ancient authorities** I can find concerning

* Some of the authors he cites are not now known.

† The Romance (which I suppose was what John Skelton had read, see him, p. 233) was first printed, as I take it, by William Copland about 1560, Ames' Typogr. Antiq. p. 153. See Urry's Chaucer, p. 146. Copland's I imagine to be the metrical Romance.

‡ Dugd. Baron. I. p. 229. Mr. Baxter, in his Glossary, p. 58, would deduce his name from the British *Kei*, or *Caius*; but I take it to be a foreign name. See Alcuin's book below.

|| Tanner, Biblioth. p. 325, in Annot. § Ibid. p. 191.

** This indeed is running up the matter very high; but it seems the Romance of Guy is one of our oldest. See Dr. Percy, III. p. vii. This author thinks it may

cerning this affair; for, as to the Saxon Chronicle, and the other writers before or about the time of the Norman Conquest, we meet with nothing of it in them; and I pay no regard to that piece of Alcuin's *de Utilitate Animæ ad Guidonem Comitem**; though a MS. in the Museum at Oxford adds *Warwicensem*, since it is impossible this should be the Guy in question, as Alcuin died A.D. 804; neither can it be any earl of Warwick whatsoever. Hence then, to proceed now on the short examination proposed, I deduce the first argument. The combat was fought A.D. 926, infomuch that we have no account of it till almost 200 years after, supposing Colman to be the first person that recorded it.

Secondly, Guy could not be earl of Warwick at this time. According to Dugdale's narrative, Rohand, earl of Warwick, whose daughter Guy had married, was living when Guy set out on his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, p. 300; for Guy did not know of his death till his return from thence and his arrival at Portsmouth; and yet Guy in that page is said to have been earl of Warwick before his embarkation for Jerusalem, which is a flat contradiction; but, passing this, the earldoms in these days were not titular honours, as now, but provincial offices. Now Warwick was part of the province of Mercia, which before Ethelstan's reign had been governed by earl Ethelred and his wife, the great heroine, Æthelfleda, daughter of king Ælfred and sister of Edward Elder. To Æthelfleda succeeded her daughter, and then Elfer, who died anno 983, long after king Athelstan, in whose reign the combat was fought; infomuch that in king Athelstan's time there

may have been the invention of some English minstrel; but query, since one of the Colmans was rather the inventor.

* Tanner, Biblioth. p. 21, 22. Richaleon, it seems, turned this work into verse; *ibid.* and I suppose was some Frenchman.

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could be no such title as earl of Warwick; or, if there was, it must be in the hand either of Æthelfleda's daughter, or of earl Elfer. But here perhaps it may be said the earl was called earl of Warwick, because he chiefly resided at Warwick, according to an observation of Sir William Dugdale, who tells us in the Baronage, tom. I. p. 9. that though they were earls of counties, yet they were sometimes named from the places of their principal abode. But this could not be the case here, because Guy is nowhere styled earl of Mercia, - but is always called earl of Warwick. It is pretended again by our authors that Rohand, Guy's father-in-law, was earl of Warwick; but this assertion is attended with the same difficulty; in short, the earldoms of Rohand and Guy stand both upon the same bottom, which appears to me to be a false one; and Sir William Dugdale seems to give it us himself, when he says, 'The earls of Warwick in the Saxon times, or before the Norman Conquest, were but substitutes or lieutenants to the earls of Mercia, or else had the custody of the county to the king's immediate use*.' And one cannot but observe that he is cautious enough not to name these earls in his Baronage amongst those that preceded the Norman æra.

I put the question thirdly, whether it can be supposed that earldoms at this time descended in this manner from a father to a daughter, and she to carry the honour to her husband? I should imagine not; neither do I think there is any other instance of it.

Fourthly, Knighton and Rous pretend, that Colbrand was a Pagan or Saracenical giant of Africa; and Dugdale, I observe, calls him a Saracen†, p. 300. > Sir William seems to be a little

* Dugd. Warw. p. 298.

† It is observed by Dr. Percy, III. p. xx. that in the romance of Merline the Saxons are called Sarazens; but that is not the case here, for had Colbrand been a Saxon, he would have been on Athelstan's side; besides, he is represented as a native of Africa.

out of countenance in the business of Colbrand's gigantic size, for he endeavours to explain it away, by suggesting he was only very tall*. The people of the North are generally taller than the Moors of Africa, and one can hardly believe an African should be of such an immense stature, nor indeed that any of the race of mankind were at this time of a gigantic form. But how should an African, whether big or little, come to England with the Danes? What communication could that Northern nation have with the Saracens? One may venture to say, they had not so much as heard of the name. Besides, Colbrand† is evidently a Danish, and not a Moorish, name; this appears plainly from the Saxon coins, Colbrand being one of the mint-masters of king Sihtric ‡.

A fifth objection arises from the unsuitable age of earl Guy; for as he died anno 929 §, æt. 70, he was not less than 67 at the time of the combat, 68 according to Mr. Hearne, rather too old to be engaged in such a perilous affair, and wherein so much was at stake, as the right to the crown of England.

Sixthly, great exception is to be taken to this duel, on account of the place and the occasion of it. Rous says, it was at Winchester; and Knighton adds, that king Athelstan had been besieged two years in that city by the Danes, after which a truce for a year ensued, wherein Athelstan was to find a champion to encounter Colbrand. But now, my lord, if you turn to the reign of king Athelstan, in Rapin for example, it does not appear that the Danes ever besieged Winchester, or ever had it in

* Knighton, I observe, calls Guy *a giant* for the same reason.

† *Colbrondus* and *Colobrandus*, Annal. Dunstapl. II. p. 827, 828. *Collibrundus*, Rous above.

‡ Sir A. Fountaine IX. tab. of the Anglo-Saxon coins.

§ Dr. Percy, III. p. 105, is mistaken in saying Dugdale fixes the date of the combat anno 929, æt. 70 of Guy, for according to Dugdale it happened anno 926. Guy dies in Dugdale anno 929, and this was the occasion of Dr. Percy's error. Hearne would read 927 instead of 926. Annal. Dunstapl. p. 825.

their power to contest king Athelstan's title to the crown. The Danes at this time were seated chiefly in the Northern parts of the island, where they raised frequent disturbances; but they were never capable of marching an army into Wessex, or sitting down before Winchester. Athelstan, instead of being shut up by Anlaf at Winchester, was actually in a capacity of doing what he pleased in Northumberland, forcing at once Anlaf and Godfrid and Regnald to fly. And when Anlaf, in league with Constantine king of Scotland, returned from thence with a great armed force, Athelstan marched into the North, and giving him battle, worsted him at Brunenburgh. Knighton and Rous are therefore strangely mistaken in placing the scene of the monomachy at Winchester. Hardyng has much more reason to lay it at Brunanburgh or Burnesburgh. But still no ancient author relates any such combat at that place; and it is a strong presumption, when authors disagree so much about the scene, that the whole affair is a fiction.

Next to place, it is fit, seventhly, that we should consider time. John Rous is very precise in this, for he fixes on the 12th of July, in the third year of king Athelstan's reign, or 926. Now the nature of these single combats, wherein the right and title to a kingdom was to be tried, is this: The two armies are supposed to be in the field ready to engage; wherefore, to save the effusion of blood, the decision of the matter is agreed to be left to a pair of combatants, by the fate of whose arms the quarrel is to be finally determined. But king Athelstan was in no such situation 12 July, 926. And Knighton moreover varies greatly from Rous in this. Olavus, he says, sat down before Winchester in the fifth year after Hugh, the French king, had made his presents on account of the princess Hilda; that he kept Athelstan shut up there two years; that Athelstan was allowed, by a truce, one year for the finding of a champion;

champion; and that he reigned seven years after the duel. This agrees well enough with the term of king Athelstan's life, who acceded to the crown anno 925, and died anno 941; but the misfortune is, it accords but ill with history. According to this the duel happened anno 934, a year very different from that specified by Rous, and even posterior to Guy's death. But, what is as bad, Anlaf was then in Ireland, and the battle of Brunanburgh, which was most likely to be the time of the combat, was not fought till 938, and the affair there was actually determined by a general engagement; so that though John Rous is so accurate as to note the day of the month, there is no finding any probable year of our Lord.

Lastly, another very improbable thing is, that Knighton says earl Guy was gone at the time, the city of Winchester was besieged, upon a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our Saxon ancestors, my lord, went often to Rome on these religious errands, but never, I think, to Jerusalem, such voyages not coming in vogue till about the Norman conquest; and so we read that earl Swane, eldest son of earl Godwin, went thither by way of penance for a vile murder he had committed. This is the first instance of any pilgrimage to Jerusalem, in regard of the Saxons, that I can recollect; for as to Arculphus, whose voyage thither is mentioned by Bede, p. 200 and 324, he was a French bishop. Please, my lord, to observe these very remarkable words of William of Malmesbury, p. 42, of his life of Aldhelm bishop of Sherburn*, speaking of a citizen of Cologne who had committed a grievous crime, and was to do penance for it, he says, 'Romam adiit, Jerosolymam penetravit; *magnum et insigne tunc temporis facinus aggressus quia nondum semitas illas Christianorum nostrorum virtus pervias fecerat.*' As much as to say it was an arduous and uncommon exploit to attempt going to the Holy

* Wharton, Angl. Sacr. tom. II.

Land before the Crusades; but the worst of all is, that John Rous, who was a limner and a herald, as well as an ecclesiastic and historian, has given us the figure of earl Guy in complete armour, with his shield and coat of arms, whereas we had no such things as coats of arms in Athelstan's reign; but let us see how he has conducted this affair, the arms are chequé Azure and Argent, a bend sinister Ermine, a coat evidently formed upon that of Thomas de Bellomonte, the seventh earl of Warwick, as may be seen in Brook.

But what, your lordship will say, is there no foundation then for this famous battle, so graphically described by our old authors? I answer, none at all. There might be a great warrior of the name of Guy; and Colman or some other genius, to ingratiate themselves with the powerful earls of Warwick, were pleased to give him that title, and to embellish his story with this combat, after the model of that of David and Goliath*; and as the story was invented after the Norman conquest, it is from thence that we hear of Jerusalem and the Saracens, the introduction of both which cannot easily be accounted for upon any other supposition. The inventor, whoever he was, effectually gained his ends; for it appears from this short account, that Guy afterwards became a christian name of the Beauchamps earls of Warwick, in honour of the champion, and that his story was portrayed in the old hangings at Warwick castle. Richard Nevil, earl of Warwick, was also induced to believe the same†, as likewise were the town's people of Warwick, for they had his statue in stone‡, as the citizens of Winchester preserved Colebrand's

* Girardus Cornubiensis in Hearne's Annals of Dunstaple, II. p. 827, expressly alludes to the story of David and Goliath on the occasion.

† Leland's Itin. IV. p. 63.

‡ Percy, vol. III. p. 3.

axe *; to which I may add, that the tablet formerly hanging at the high altar at Winchester, transcribed from Girardus Cornubiensis †, shews how generally the legend of Guy and Colbrand was received in England; but, as rightly is observed by Dr. Percy, 'many of our antient historians have recorded the fictions of 'romance†.'

* Girardus Cornub. p. 828.

† Ibid. p. 830.

‡ Percy, vol. III. p. 10.

NARRATIVE OF A STRANGE RELIGIOUS FRENZY AT COVENTRY,
 IN AN ORIGINAL LETTER FROM SIR THOMAS MORE.
 COMMUNICATED BY DR. DUCAREL, F.R. and A. SS.
 FROM A MS. IN THE LAMBETH LIBRARY, N° 575. P. 7—9.

An old book intituled *Epistolæ aliquot eruditorum nunquam antebac excusæ*. They are eight in all, and the last is *Sir Thomas More's to a monk unnamed*, left out in his English works and in his Latin, both printed at Basil, in 8vo. 1563, and at Lovain in folio, 1566, on purpose sure because it made against them; but Mr. Day, who wrote the descant on David's Psalmes, borrowed it of Mr. Henry Jackson, fellow of Corpus Christi College, in Oxford, and hath inserted the translation of part of it in his preface to the reader.

“ THERE was (says Sir Thomas More in that epistle) at Coventry a fryar of the number of those Franciscans which were not as yet reformed to the rule of St. Francis. This man preacht in the citie, in the suburbs, in the towns and villages thereabout, that *Quicumque Psalterium B. Virginis oraret quotidie nunquam posset damnari*. This was no sooner delivered, but it was as easily heard and as readily beleivd; for that it shewd so easy a way to Heaven. The pastor of that place, an honest and learned man, though for his own part he knew well enough that it was but foolishly spoken; yet he dissembled awhile, supposing that no harm would ensue thereupon, and that the people, the more addicted they were to the worship of the blessed Virgin, the more religious they would be. *At ubi tandem recognoscens ovile deprehendit ea scabie vebementer infectum gregem, pessimum quemque in illo Psalterio maximum religiosum esse*, upon no other mind and purpose than to dare to do any thing; so that there was no doubt at all but they should have heaven, which so grave an authority as the fryar fallen as it were from heaven unto them so faithfully promised; then at length he began to admonish

nish his people that they should not trust too much to the saying of the Psalter, though say it they should no less than ten times a day; yet certainly they did well who said it well over, so that they said it over upon that confidence wherewith all others had now begun; otherwise that much better it was to omit those prayers altogether, so they would omit those crimes too, which under the patronage of those prayers they did so confidently commit. This when once he had spoken to them out of the pulpit, it was strange how waspish they were. They challenge him for his words; they hiss at him; they drive him out of their company, and defame him as an enemy to the Virgin Mary. The fryar another day up to the pulpit with all speed, and, to vex Mr. Parson the more, begins with this theme, *Dignare me laudare te, virgo sacrata, da mihi virtutem contra hostes tuos*; for they say a certain Scot did use the self-same theme, being to dispute at Paris of the Virgin's immaculate conception; *quod Lutetiam in momento delatum periclitante se auxilio beatæ virginis millia passuum plusquam trecenta metiuntur*. But what need many words? The short and the long was this; the fryar easily perswaded those that were willing enough to beleeve that their pastor was a fool, yea and a wicked man too. Now while all was in this hurly-burly, it so fell out that myself had occasion to go to Coventry, to see a sister of mine there. I was scarce alighted from my horse, but to me the question was presently proposed, "Whether he that said over the blessed Virgin's Psalter every day could possibly be damned?" I fell a laughing at a question so ridiculous; but was presently told that it was no laughing matter; for there was in town a most holy fryar, and one most learned too, who had preached that such an one could not be damned. I contemned the whole matter, as little appertaining unto me whether so or so. I was presently invited to supper. I promised, and went. No sooner was I there, *ecce intrat frater senex silicernium, gravis. Puer a tergo sequitur cum codicibus*. I soon perceived that now I was to

look about me. Down we sat, and, lest any time should be lost, my friend that had invited me presently proposed the question. The fryar makes answer, as before he had preached. I was silent: for willingly I keep myself out of all such strugglings as are odious and unfruitful. They asked at length what my opinion was; and then, when in good manners I could be silent no longer, I answered what I thought, but in very few words, and somewhat carelessly. Here the fryar began afresh, and with a long premeditated speech, which might have served for two sermons at the least, barked and brawled all supper time. *Summa rationum tota pendebat a miraculis; quorum nobis effutiebatur jam è Mariali multa, tum quaedam ex aliis ejusdem farinae libellis*, which he willed to be brought to the table, to give the greater authority to his speeches. When at length he had made an end, I modestly began to answer; First, that in all that long process he had said just nothing, whereby such might be persuaded, if any happily were present that would not admit of those miracles; and that might very well be, and their faith in Christ firm enough: which miracles besides, had they been so undoubtedly true, yet to prove the matter in question they had no force nor strength at all. For though you may easily find a prince who, at the entreaties of his mother, may sometimes forgive his enemies somewhat; there is no prince again so foolish that will make a law promising impunity to traitors that shall perform some certain offices to his mother, thereby to make them the more audacious against him. *Multis ultro citroque dictis, effecit tandem, ut ille tolleretur laudibus, ipse pro stulto rideretur.* Nay the matter came to that pass, by the depraved disposition of men who under the color of piety favored their own faults, that the opinion could hardly be repressed, though the bishop himself of that city used all the means he possibly could. *Hucusque.* TH. MORUS.

END OF NUMBER XVII.

